

Date Mailed  
August 10, 1998

BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Notification by Price County Telephone Company, Inc.,  
That It Intends to Increase Telephone Rates

4870-TR-100

**NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

On July 15, 1998, the Public Service Commission (Commission) received notification from Price County Telephone Company, Inc., that it intends to modify rates for several classifications of telephone service at its Phillips, Prentice and Soo Lake exchanges in Price and Sawyer Counties. The changes include increases in prices for local service, nonrecurring service charges, directory assistance, and unlisted numbers. The utility served notice of the rate changes to its customers on July 31, 1998. Under § 196.215(3)(a), Stats., the proposed rates will become effective October 1, 1998. Customers have the opportunity to petition the Commission for an investigation of the utility's rate increase.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Commission will investigate this matter under § 196.215(3)(a), Stats. If the Commission receives a timely petition (by September 30, 1998) from at least 425 customers of the utility requesting that the Commission determine rates, tolls, and charges, the utility's proposed increases may still go into effect; however, the rates will then be subject to refund and further investigation will be necessary.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that the Commission deems it necessary in order to carry out its duties herein to investigate the books, accounts, practices and activities of Price County Telephone Company, Inc., as a public utility. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such investigation will be assessed against and collected from Price County Telephone Company, Inc., as a public utility, in accordance with the provisions of § 196.85, Stats., and ch. PSC 5, Wis. Adm. Code.

This action is classified as a Type III action according to § PSC 4.10(3), Wis. Adm. Code. Furthermore, since no unusual circumstances have come to the attention of the Commission which indicate that significant environmental consequences are likely, neither an environmental impact statement under § 1.11, Stats., nor an environmental assessment is required.

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Questions on this matter may be directed to Tom Gross of the Telecommunications Division, at (608) 267-2337.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, \_\_\_\_\_

By the Commission:

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Lynda L. Dorr  
Secretary to the Commission

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cc: Gary Evenson, PSC